

Appl. No. : 09/941,395
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Amendments to the Claims:

21. (new) A system for providing an ultrasound image of at least a part of an object or body comprising:

an ultrasound imaging apparatus;

a kit capable of producing a stabilized microbubble preparation comprising an aqueous medium, a gas osmotic agent, at least one phospholipid surfactant having at least one acyl chain of at least 10 or more carbon atoms wherein upon the application of energy the phospholipid surrounds the gas osmotic agent to form a microbubble,

the gas osmotic agent selected from the group consisting of perfluoropropane and perfluorohexane.

22. (new) The system of claim 21 wherein the gas osmotic agent is selected from the group consisting of perfluorobutane, perfluorocyclobutane, perfluoropentane, perfluorocyclopentane, perfluoromethylcyclobutane, perfluorohexane, perfluorocyclohexane, perfluoromethylcyclopentane, perfluorodimethylcyclobutane, perfluoroheptane, perfluorocycloheptane, perfluoromethylcyclohexane, perfluorodimethyl cyclopentane, perfluorotrimethyl cyclobutane and perfluoro triethylamine.

23. (new) The system of claim 21 wherein the kit further comprise a modifier gas selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen, carbon dioxide or mixtures thereof.

24. (new) The system of claim 23 wherein the mixture of the gas osmotic agent and modifier gas is effective to stabilize the microbubble preparation.

25. (new) The system of claim 23 wherein the modifier gas is air.

26. (new) The system of claim 23 wherein the gas osmotic agent is perfluoropropane and the second gas is nitrogen.

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27. (new) The system of claim 21 wherein kit of claim 8 wherein the aqueous solution contains sterile water.
28. (new) The system of claim 21 wherein the microbubbles contain air.
29. (new) The system of claim 21 wherein the gas osmotic agent is perfluoropropane.
30. (new) The system of claim 21 wherein the kit contains a head space containing perfluoropropane gas.
31. (new) The system of claim 30 wherein the head space contains air.
32. (new) The system of claim 21 wherein the energy applied is mechanical energy.
33. (new) The system of claim 21 wherein the energy applied is sonic energy.